

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 13601

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, KE
SUBJECT: PRE-PARTY CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

1. PLEDGES OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT MOI'S UNOPPOSED
CANDIDACY FOR KANU PRESIDENT(AND THUS PRESIDENT OF COUNTRY)
CONTINUE TO ROLE IN FROM VARIOUS KANU BRANCHES AND OTHER
LOCAL AND NATIONAL GROUPINGS.

2. PARLIAMENTARY BACKBENCHERS CALLED ON MOI SEPTEMBER 11.
INTERESTING TO NOTE THEIR PLEDGE OF SUPPORT WENT FURTHER
THAN MOST IN 1)"EXPRESSING CONVICTION THAT RULING PARTY,
KANU, SHOULD RECEIVE ITS DUE RECOGNITION AND THAT IT WILL BE
AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY TO FUNCTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS
OWN CONSTITUTION," AND 2) "EXPRESSING BELIEF THREE ARMS
OF GOVERNMENT--LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, AND JUDICIARY--MUST
BE ALLOWED TO FUNCTION UNFETTERED." ALSO, ACCORDING PRESS
REPORT MP'S REQUESTED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AFTER PERIOD
OF MOURNING "TO THRASH OUT SOME MATTERS RELATED TO OUR
ROLES IN PARLIAMENT."

3. LUO BACKBENCHER WHO WAS ON DRAFTING COMMITTEE FOR
MP'S STATEMENT HAD EARLIER INFORMED EMBOFF THAT WHILE
SOME MP'S WERE CONTENT TO ISSUE USUAL BENIGN PLEDGE OF
SUPPORT, MAJORITY INSISTED ON SETTING CERTAIN CONDITIONS
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REGARDING RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE OF THREE BRANCHES
OF GOVERNMENT AND PARTY. MP CONFIDED CONDITIONS
PRIMARILY AIMED AT JUDICIARY UNDER CONTROL OF ATTORNEY
GENERAL NJONJO.

4. PRESENT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT RESUMED
SEPTEMBER 12 AFTER SIX-WEEK RECESS. MEETING CONFINED

TO GLOWING TRIBUTES TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA AND HIS IDEALS BY PRESIDENT MOI AND OTHERS AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED MOTION, PUT FORWARD BY MINFIN KIBAKI, PLEDGING PARLIAMENT'S LOYALTY TO AND CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT MOI. PARLIAMENT THEN ADJOURNED TO SEPTEMBER 26, PROBABLY IN DEFERENCE TO PERIOD OF MOURNING STILL IN EFFECT.

5. ACTING KANU SECRETARY GENERAL MATANO AND NATIONAL TREASURER JUSTIS OLE TIPIS HAVE SPECIFIED THAT DELEGATES TO OCTOBER 6 KANU CONFERENCE WILL BE SAME AS THOSE ELECTED FOR ABORTIVE APRIL 1977 ELECTIONS AND WILL NUMBER SOME 1600. PARTY OFFICIALS ALSO CLARIFIED THAT ONLY AGENDA ITEM OF CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO FILL VACANCY OF PARTY PRESIDENT AND THAT NOMINATIONS WOULD OPEN SEPTEMBER 18 WITH SEPTEMBER 23 DEADLINE. WHILE TECHNICALLY ANY KANU MEMBER MAY CONTEST PARTY PRESIDENCY, IT SEEMS VERY REMOTE AT THIS TIME THAT ANYONE WILL CHALLENGE MOI CANDIDACY.

6. DAILY STANDARD, WHICH REPRESENTS KENYATTA FAMILY INTERESTS, HAS EDITORIALIZED THAT IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ELECT NEW KANU NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT UPCOMING CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH RECENT STATEMENTS BY PARTY OFFICIALS MAKE THIS APPEAR UNLIKELY. STANDARD HAS ALSO CALLED FOR A REVITALIZATION OF PARTY MACHINERY TO PERMIT KANU TO FUNCTION ON DAILY BASIS.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH KENYATTA FAMILY FACTION HAS
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APPARENTLY DECIDED NOT TO CONTEST PARTY CANDIDACY, IT SEEMINGLY BELIEVES THERE CHANCE TO PLACE SOME OF ITS SUPPORTERS ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THEREBY GAIN SOME BARGAINING LEVERAGE. HOWEVER, MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE FAMILY GROUPING POLITICALLY ISOLATED AT PRESENT AND WOULD NOT FARE WELL EVEN IF NEW NATIONAL SLATE OF PARTY OFFICIALS ELECTED.

8. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT MP'S STATEMENT MUCH MORE ASSERTIVE THAN OTHERS, WHICH SUGGESTS MP'S HAVE NO INTENTION OF MEEKLY FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP.
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